

Agenda Item: 2

Date: May 4, 2021

Commission Action Date: May 11, 2021

TO: Arts & Culture Commission**FROM:** Kathryn Dippong Lawson, Recreation Supervisor**SUBJECT:** Second Review & Recommendation - Public Art Utility Box Design at Santa Clara Street and Oak Street.**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an action item. It is recommended that the Arts & Culture Commission review and recommend the public art utility box design proposed for the utility box located on the corner of Santa Clara Street and Oak Street.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

At the April 13, 2021 Arts & Culture Commission meeting, the utility box design proposed by artist Isabella Ekfeldt was reviewed and discussed by the Commission. During the discussion, the Commission provided input to the artist about the proposed design. After providing input, the Commission voted to move the item to the May 11, 2021 Arts & Culture Commission meeting with the opportunity for the artist to revise her design if interested.

After reviewing the input provided by the Commission, the artist would like to re-submit her design as previously proposed. Along with the re-submission, she would like to share additional insight about her proposed design during the meeting.

As shared in the April 13, 2021 staff report, the artist describes her proposed design for the utility box as follows:

"The main subject of my piece is the flowing heart that wraps around the whole box. It represents the love that connects us all which I have seen time and time again in Ventura County in the last year.

The childlike choice of colors brings an optimistic perspective of brighter days with the feelings of joy and play. The groups of eyes demonstrate that we are not alone in this and can look to others for support and wellness. Adding the fun optical illusion of the checkerboards to tie it all together.

The bountiful fruit on side three not only shows the changing of the seasons but the fresh fruit that is sold at the local farmers markets. It also reminds me of simpler times when I would spend my childhood summers in Sweden picking the wild strawberries.

The last side is dedicated to finding peace and a little home within the boat community. Boat culture has emerged into my life in many ways and now has a little place in my heart as well. Lastly, looking at the top of the box there is the sun. I see the sun as a protector and ultimate provider.”

Attachments for Review:

- [Attachment A: Utility Box Location](#)
- [Attachment B: Utility Box Design Rendering](#)